

St. Sylvester R. C. Church

68 Ohio Avenue, Medford, NY 11763

A community praying, growing, serving & welcoming in Jesus Christ.



*Blessed are those
who have not seen
and have believed.*

April 8, 2018
*2nd Sunday of Easter
(Divine Mercy Sunday)*

We Celebrate!

Eucharist:

Weekends: Sat: 5pm Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am & 11am Holy Days as announced

Weekdays: M, Tu, Th and Fr: Mass in the Parish Center @ 8:30am

Baptisms: Celebrated on pre-determined Sunday afternoons. ***Prior to making plans,*** call the Parish Center for Baptism dates, for preparation class dates, and important information regarding Godparents.

Reconciliation: Saturday at 12 noon or by appointment.

Confirmation: In the Fall for the youth of the parish. Adults and young adults can also be confirmed at Pentecost. Please call the Faith Formation Office.

Marriage: Friday @ 3, 4:30, 6pm, Saturday @ 10:30am & 2:30pm. Arrangements must be made one year prior to the requested date. Please be aware that all the Sacraments of Initiation should have been celebrated prior to the requested wedding date and Pre-Cana preparation is required. No plans should be made prior to meeting with a priest or deacon.

Anointing of the Sick: Every second Friday of the month @ 8:30am Mass for those needing surgery, or serious medical treatment, or seeking spiritual healing.

We are here for you!

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev. Thomas W. Coby, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Mystkowski

Deacon George Riegger, Retired

Deacon Frank Rivera

Theresa Ellner, Business Manager

Michael Lofaro, Faith Formation Administrator

Frances McMahan, Faith Formation Director

Justin McMahan, Parish Social Ministry Director

Lori Zito, Stewardship Director

Office Information

Parish Office: (631)475-4506 ext 101; Fax (631)475-1057 email: parishoffice@stsyvesterli.org
M, Tu, W ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 8:30pm; Th, Fri ~ 9am - 12 & 1 - 5pm; Su ~ 9:30am - 12:30pm

Faith Formation Office: (631)475-4506 ext. 118 email: faithformation@stsyvesterli.org
Please call (631)475-4506 ext. 118 to make an appointment and we will be happy to serve you!

Clare House: (631)475-4506; Fax (631)475-6058

M & W ~ 9:30am-12pm, 1pm-3:30pm Wed Night~ 5:30pm-7:30pm Fr ~ 9:30am-11:30am

Thrift Shop: (631)475-4506

Tu, Wed & Th ~ 10am - 3pm; Sat ~ 10am - 1pm

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE involving diocesan personnel, priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers at schools or churches in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please call our confidential hotline number at 1-516-594-9063 and speak with Mary McMahan, LCSW, Director.

IF YOU SUSPECT a child or vulnerable adult is being—or has been abused, call the New York State Hotline phone number: 1-800-342-3720

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Visit our website at: www.stsyvesterli.org

We Pray

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 7, 2018

5:00pm Zofia Soltys (1st Anniversary)
Cristino Gomez II
The Dupont, Kocher, Chin-Sang &
Acevedo Families
Freda Phelan
Jeff Walker
Frank Micucci

Sunday, April 8, 2018

7:30am Toscano & Cesarino Families
Robert Fontana
9:00am Ellen Cribier (4th Anniversary)
11:00am Matteo, Caravana & LoCascio Families
(Living & Deceased)

Monday, April 9, 2018

8:30am For the People of St. Sylvester

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

8:30am Madeleine Bouzier

Thursday, April 12, 2018

8:30am Brian McDonald

Friday, April 13, 2018

8:30am Richard Russo

Saturday, April 14, 2018

5:00pm Tom Stephens
Marilyn McKee
Aloysius Donaghy
Catherine Holzmann
Robert Plowman
Fred & Dolores Mark

Sunday, April 15, 2018

7:30am Luigi Russo & Family
9:00am Manuel & Rosa Esteves
11:00am Sr. Alice Flood, FSP (19th Anniversary)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

4/9:	Is 7:10—14; 8:10	Ps 40:7-11
	Heb 10:4-10	Lk 1:26-38
4/10:	Acts 4:32-37	Ps 93:1-2, 5
	Jn 3:7-15	
4/11:	Acts 5:17-26	Ps 34:2-9
	Jn 3:16-21	
4/12:	Acts 5:27-33	Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20
	Jn 3:31-36	
4/13:	Acts 5:34-42	Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
	Jn 6:1-15	
4/14:	Acts 6:1-7	Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 15-19
	Jn 6:16-21	
4/15:	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19	Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9
	1 Jn 2:1-5	Lk 24:35-48

We pray for all who are sick, especially . . .

Eva D'Amato, Robert Orlovski, Nina Caravana, Martha Lee, Winnie Mulderig, Catherine Hines, Bob Prentiss, Jose Nunez, Jessica Deck, Rose Masucci, Baby Bryanna Spencer, Pam Hinton, Pam Filasky, Ken Terry, Brian Podlesny, Roger Chin-Sang, Sasha Medile, Nef Nieves, Joanne Clarke, Richard Gross, Michelle Clark, Barbara Bruzzo, Ann Vidal, Laura Mockler, Diane Ruiz, Martha Benvenuto, Olivia Grace DeFeo, Joel Rivera, Miguel Durante, Rosemarie Pugliese, Diana Erickson, Frank Cayea, Dorothy Birdsall, Jack Frey, Michael Dolan, Baby Valentina Brescia, The Abano Family, Iris DelValle, Hilda Gonzalez, John Bennett, Julian Atz, Richard Broderick, Jim Dietz, Eric Bedell, Charles Lunstrum, Baby Madison Angamarca, JoAnn Brandi, Helen Gallagher, Donyell Gilkes, Joan Zerafa

Anointing of the Sick

The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient.



The Sacrament of the Anointing is celebrated at St. Sylvester on the second Friday of the month immediately following the 8:30am Mass in the Worship Room of the Parish Center. The next Anointing is this Friday, April 13th.

Holy Hour

Time spent with our
Beloved Savior in Adoration

can become the most profound, meaningful, joyful, peaceful and healing experience we could ever encounter.



*Please join us this Friday, April 13 from 8pm — 9pm in the Worship Room.
"I Am With You Always"*

Parish Social Ministry



The goal of Parish Social Ministry is to engage parishioners in social justice and outreach activities that allow us to live out the Gospel call to serve others and to build the Kingdom of God. Clare House is a community space where we exchange resources, offer assistance, and build relationships.

The Outreach Ministry at Clare House offers direct service to community members facing difficulties of all kinds. We strive to build authentic relationships with every individual who walks through the door and commit to journey in solidarity with them. We offer assistance to alleviate immediate needs. Clients receive access to: food pantry, thrift shop, case management, advocacy, information and referral, and other resources.

The Social Justice Ministry at Clare House works to expand our understanding and application of Catholic Social Justice through the use of praxis. We employ the "See, Judge, Act" Method to examine pressing social problems. By utilizing education, advocacy, and community organizing we put our faith in action to address structural issues and eliminate systemic injustice. We feed the hungry and ask why they are hungry. The Social Justice Committee normally meets first Thursdays at 7pm in Clare House. ALL ARE WELCOME! PLEASE RSVP.

I welcome your calls, emails, and letters to express feedback - positive or negative - on any aspect of our PSM program. Dialogue is essential for clarification of thought. Thank you to those of you who have contacted me. I look forward to continuing the conversation!

Constructive Feedback?

Justin McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry
631-475-4506 x121 jmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org

Contact Outreach Ministry:

631-475-4506 x122
clarehouse@stsylvesterli.org

Contact Social Justice Ministry:

631-475-4506 press 5+2
jmcmahon@stsylvesterli.org

Mothering God,

You have made a home for all your creatures,
a world exploding with abundant and nourishing love.

And yet,
our history is a story of the powerful taking
and maintaining control over
the homes, and the very lives, of others,
beginning with indigenous peoples
still deprived of their own land and sovereignty
and of the dignity of their histories.

We think, too, of those who have been made poor—
in substandard houses, apartments, and trailers
made unsafe by inadequate heating,
leaking roofs,
and toxic environments.

We think of those who are transient,
or at risk of becoming so,
dependent upon motels,
social services,
and houses of hospitality.

We think of those for whom finding a home
is a continual struggle against so many systemic obstacles—
vulnerable women,
people of color,
LGBTQ people,
those suffering from addiction.

We think of those whose homes and neighborhoods
are marginalized in urban and rural places,
hidden from the eyes of those who have plenty
until a sense of "opportunity" leads to
absentee ownership,
gentrification,
and development that dehumanizes and displaces.

We think, too, of Mother Earth
being made uninhabitable
by the engines of an economy that kills.

Empower us to be perfect in our homemaking
as you are in your divine homemaking.

Let us bring each other home.
Let us give back that which is not ours to have.
Let us meet one another's needs
and be satisfied with "enough."
Let us create communities of inclusion and care
which honor the least among us. Let us make each place where we find
ourselves
into a home that you yourself would be honored to inhabit.
Amen.

—Written by the Catholic Committee of Appalachia

Parish Social Ministry



Chapter 4: Quality, Affordable Housing

When we think about housing and poverty, we often think about urban homelessness and forget about the instability that comes with housing insecurity. The reality is many people experiencing poverty may have a roof over their head, but might struggle with affording soaring housing costs on low wages in urban and rural areas alike.

Homeownership – a key way to build wealth and achieve financial security in our country – is disproportionately skewed in favor of white households owning their homes (73%) compared to Latinx households (47%) and Black households (45%).¹ Owning a home allows a family to build assets, and it increases children's chances of finishing school and future success. Children of homeowners are twice as likely to graduate from college and 59% more likely to become homeowners.²

Currently, renters are spending too high a percentage of their monthly income on housing. Any household that pays more than 30% is "rent burdened."³ Rent burdened families are forced to make sacrifices on other expenses such as healthcare, food, and transportation. They are also more likely to face eviction, which leads to major population displacement, particularly for low-income women of color.⁴ Across the country, developers are prioritizing new housing units for high income renters, causing a decline in our nation's supply of affordable housing.

Extremely high costs affect low-income renters in large cities, mid-sized cities, and rural areas alike.⁵ Since the 1990s, migration from rural to urban areas has declined by 50%, tying residents of rural areas to the economic reality of their area with less control over their financial future.⁶ For example, one of the poorest counties in the United States, McDowell County, WV, has experienced major declines in industry, particularly coal. This decline contributed to abandoned businesses, decreasing wages, lack of jobs, and little opportunity for economic growth, which led to the deterioration of housing stock and infrastructure in the county. In McDowell County, 40% of the population lives in poverty compared to 12% nationally.⁷ Bolstering economic vitality and reinvesting in the workforce in certain regions are key steps to help eliminate disparities in access to housing and opportunity across the United States.

Historically, racist local and federal policies – such as the National Housing Act of 1934 – have stripped wealth from people of color and exacerbated the racial wealth gap. Practices such as redlining, land contracts, and subprime loans contribute to higher monthly payments, loan defaults, increased foreclosures, and more evictions for families of color.⁸ This systematic housing discrimination has long-term effects for people and communities of color.

There are many factors to determine where someone might live: school district, commute time, proximity to public transportation, safety, and more. However, many families do not have the liberty to choose where they live, and many do not have homes at all. No one, regardless of location, should have to face uncertainty about where they will sleep. Individuals across all areas – whether urban or rural – have a right to live in safe and affordable communities so they are able to thrive and to focus on family life.

Facts and Figures

- 553,742 people experiencing homelessness were counted on a single night in 2017.⁹
- From 2010 to 2016, the amount of apartments classified as "affordable" dropped by over 60%.¹⁰
- 33% of rural working poor people had family incomes below 50% of the poverty line (around \$12,000 for a family of four) in 2015.¹¹
- A median renter in the bottom 20% income quintile pays more than 50% of income on rent, and is left with less than \$500 for other necessities.⁵
- 23% of black renting families and 25% of Hispanic renting families spent at least half of their income on housing in 2013.⁴

Reflection Questions

How could we expand our definition of housing?

What else should be included for housing to be a nurturing environment where people can grow?

How does access to safe, reliable housing intersect with other systemic obstacles faced by marginalized individuals and families?

Stewardship

Gifts of Treasure

April 1, 2018

Due to publication deadlines and vacation schedules, the contributions for Easter Sunday will be in the April 15th bulletin.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2018

Designated Goal:	\$65,800.00
Amount Pledged to Date:	\$40,216.00
% of Goal Pledged to Date:	61.1%
Number of Donors to Date:	102

Reflection

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced total stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common and distributed to each whatever was needed.

Living Stewardship

We are grateful for all stewards who look beyond their own *wants* to help satisfy the *needs* of others..

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Garden Ministry

Looking for Green Thumbs

Our Garden Ministry here at St. Sylvester is once again getting ready for the spring planting season, preparing to transform our parish grounds into a park-like setting.

Do you have a green thumb and love to work with the earth? Do you excitedly wait for the frost season to end so you can start planning your planting? Perhaps you feel closest to the Lord among the flowers? If so, our gardeners welcome you to join them! Or...

Maybe you're the type that loves being around flowers, but can't grow or plant them, due to stiff knees or a black thumb. If this is the case, perhaps you would like to offer the gift of your time and assist with the setting up and selling at our annual **Spring Flower Sale**, which will be **May 11th – 13th**.

Please contact Lori Zito in Stewardship Office if you are interested in helping us "bring in the spring."



Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy Of the Word

We are happy to announce that we will be having Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11am Mass on **April 8th and 22nd**.



Follow the directions of the priest when he calls the children forward to be sent to the Worship Room in the Parish Center. Any child in Level 1 or above is invited to participate.



The Children's Choir will rehearse in the Worship Room today, Sunday, **April 8th** at 9:45am and sing at the 11am Mass. If you have any questions, please call Teresa Balducci at (516) 662-2831.

Attention Parents

*Registration will begin the week of April 16, 2018 for the coming year.
(Please see next page for details)*

Do not wait until the last minute to complete the following requirements as they are not easy to make up at a moment's notice!

In order for you to register your child for the next Level your child is expected, with your assistance, to complete the following:

Mass Reflection Forms

4 Mass Reflection Forms for Level 1

6 Mass Reflection Forms for Levels 2 – 7

Masses are every weekend:

Saturday at 5pm; Sunday at 7:30am, 9am & 11am



Reconciliation

Celebration of Reconciliation at least 1 time each year for Levels 2 – 7

Reconciliation is every Saturday at 12 p.m. in the Church.

Reconciliation cards are available in the Faith Formation Office & the Church.

We ask you to work with us in making sure your child has completed the above requirements so that they can move up to the next level.

If you have any questions, or need assistance, please call the Faith Formation Office at 631-475-4506, Ext. 118.

Faith Formation

Frequently Asked Questions About Faith Formation:

When should I register my child in Faith Formation for First Holy Communion?

Preparation for FHC is a two year process that begins when your child is in First Grade in School, so be sure to register them the Spring before. See days and times below.

Can my child switch from another parish to St. Sylvester Faith Formation Program?

Yes. It is necessary to bring a letter of completion on the other parish's letterhead indicating the years attended.

What if my child has missed a couple of years of Faith Formation and now we want to get started again?

No problem. Call the Faith Formation Office at 631-457-4506 x 118 and we will be happy to help you.

In Addition. . .

A **baptismal certificate** is required for all first time registrations. We will be unable to process your registration without this required certificate, so please be sure to bring it with you when you come to register.

If you are not yet registered with St. Sylvester Parish, please register in **The Parish Office** before registering your child in Faith Formation. The Parish Office hours are:
Monday—Wednesday 9am-12pm & 1pm-8:30pm; Thursday & Friday 9am-12pm & 1pm-5pm; Sunday 9:30am-12:30pm.

Registration Dates & Times



Faith Formation
Registration

Monday, April 16	4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Tuesday, April 17	4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Wednesday, April 18	4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Thursday, April 19	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

On-Line Registration

will begin April 16th and run through April 29th

Please go to www.stsylvesterli.org and click on Faith Formation and then Registration.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Faith Formation Ministry as a teacher/ catechist, please call 631-475-4506 x 118 or e-mail: faithformation@stsylvesterli.org for more information.

Faith Formation

Welcome our newly Baptized and Confirmed



L to R: Christopher, Miyoshi, Julianna, Stephanie, Barbara

Christopher, Miyoshi, Stephanie and Barbara were Baptized and Confirmed at the Easter Vigil on Saturday April 1st. Julianna was also Confirmed at the Vigil. They are all now welcome to join with us at the Eucharist.

Congratulations to all of them and our continued prayers for them as they continue their journey of faith with us.

BAPTISM

Let us welcome the babies baptized during the Month of March 2018



*Kylie Alexandra Barry
Amalia Marie Bissett
Alexavier Bjorn Daniel
Michael John McGarvey*

*Jaxon Quinn Raffo
Kinsley Grace Sweeney
Charlotte Rae Trinca
Jionni Dominick Varricchio*



Parish Life

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Hospitality after 9am & 11am Masses

Children's Liturgy ~ 11am Mass

Baptisms ~ 12:30pm ~ Church

Monday ~ April 9, 2018

Drawing Class ~ 10am ~ East Wing

Spanish Legion of Mary ~ 5:45pm ~ Room 4

Baptism Class ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Tuesday ~ April 10, 2018

Art Class ~ 9am ~ EW

Legion of Mary ~ 1:30pm ~ Room 8

Adult Confirmation ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Wednesday ~ April 11, 2018

Painting Class ~ 10am ~ PDH

RCIA Inquiry ~ 7pm ~ East Wing

Stewardship Meeting ~ 7pm ~ Room 9

Thursday ~ April 12, 2018

Al-Anon ~ 9:45am ~ Room 2

Friday ~ April 13, 2018

Senior Circle of Friends ~ 12:30pm ~ PDH

Compassionate Friends ~ 7:30pm ~ EW

Holy Hour ~ 8pm ~ Church

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Level 1 Prayer Service ~ 9am ~ PDH

Home Taught Meeting ~ 10:30am ~ Parish Center



May 3 at 6pm

Patricia Desmond Hall

Come sample the delicious food from some great restaurants in Medford plus surrounding towns. Bring your appetite!

Tickets are \$25 pp. and are available for purchase in the parish office starting Monday, April 9th and after Masses April 21/22 and April 28/29.

Volunteer Opportunities for our 2nd annual "A Taste of Medford Plus"

This is a great opportunity to fulfill service hour requirements for Confirmation, National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society. Come be a part of this great night! Event time will be 2 hours. You can volunteer for all or part of that time. Opportunities include: *Servers, Set up, Clean up, Bakers for Dessert, Drivers to pick up food and Raffle Table.*

If interested, please call Lori at 631-475-4506, ext. 115 or e-mail lito@stsylvesterli.org

Senior Circle of Friends

The Senior Circle of Friends meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Their next meeting is April 13 at 12:30pm in Patricia Desmond Hall. Come join us for fun and games. Bring a friend and meet some new ones!



Hospitality after the 9am & 11am Masses today in Patricia Desmond Hall. Come join us!

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